

An Analysis of Trend of Urbanisation in Tripura, India

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Abstract- Tripura is a small state in North East India. It evolves as an independent 'Princely State' and maintains its princely status after 1947 also. In 1949, Tripura merges with Indian Union and becomes a full-fledged state in 1972. The state is on its paths of development as an important member of North Eastern Council. Development and growth are usually related with the extent of urbanisation. The present paper analyses trend of urbanisation in Tripura.

Key words:- Urbanisation, princely state, North Eastern Council, development

I. Introduction

Census of India 2011, defines urban areas as: (a) all places with a municipality, corporation, cantonment board or notified town area committee, etc.; and (b) all other places with a minimum population of 5,000, at least 75 per cent of the adult male main working population engaged in non-agricultural pursuits; and a density of population of at least 400 persons per sq. km. These towns are known as 'Statutory Towns' and notified under law by the concerned state/UT government and have local bodies like municipal corporations, municipalities, municipal committees, etc. whereas other towns are defined as 'Census Towns' [1]

Urbanisation results from a combination of natural increase of the urban population and net in-migration to urban areas. The two major processes reinforce each other, although their relative importance varies [2].

Before its merger with Indian Union (15th October, 1949), Tripura was an independent princely state. It was taken as a PART-C state administered by the chief commissioner, and it became a Union Territory on 1st November, 1956. The territorial formation of Legislative Assembly and a council of ministers in 1963 were notable events. Tripura became a full-fledged state on January, 1972 [1, 3, 4 & 5].

The objective of the present study is to find out the trend of urbanisation in Tripura.

II. Materials and Method

Table-1: Percentage of urban population in India and Tripura, 1951-2011

Year	Percentage of urban population in India	Percentage of urban population in Tripura	Difference
1951	17.29	6.70	10.59
1961	17.97	9.02	8.95
1971	19.91	10.43	9.48
1981	23.34	11.00	12.34
1991	25.72	15.30	10.42
2001	27.78	17.06	10.72
2011	31.16	26.18	4.98

The work is based on secondary sources. Census of India 2001 and 2011 population and migration data have been used. Quantitative method is applied using Microsoft Office Excel 2007 software.

III. Results and Discussion

A. Urbanisation and Urban Development in Tripura

Presently, Tripura consists of four districts namely, West Tripura, North Tripura, Dhalai and South Tripura. Agartala is the state capital and also the only 'Class-I Town' in the state [1]. Before 1994, Urban Development Department was named as Local Self Government in Tripura. It is concerned with Directorate of Urban Development, Town and Country Planning Organisation and Urban Local Bodies (ULB) incorporating one Municipal Council (M CI) and 15 Nagar Panchayats (NP) in the state. Presently, there are 16 ULB in the state [1,3,4&5]. As per census 2011, the state has 42 urban centres comprise of 9,61,453 urban population (see Table-2, Fig. 2).

The Indian nation as a whole has experienced gradual increase of urbanisation since 1951 though the rate of urbanisation is low. Tripura has witnessed a slow rate of urbanisation too. In 1901, the rate was 3.7 percent and in 1951; it became 6.70, which increases to 26.18 per cent in 2011. Trend of urbanisation has found to be increased since its merger with India (see Fig. 1). Though the striking feature is after 60 year, the gap between the levels of urbanisation in India and Tripura has been decreased from 10.59 per cent in 1951 to 4.98 per cent in 2011 only (see Table-1).

Source: Anon. 1993. Final Population Totals. Brief Analysis of Primary Census, Series-1, Paper-2 of 1992; Registrar

General of Census Commissioner, Census of India, Govt. of India; www.censusindia.gov.in

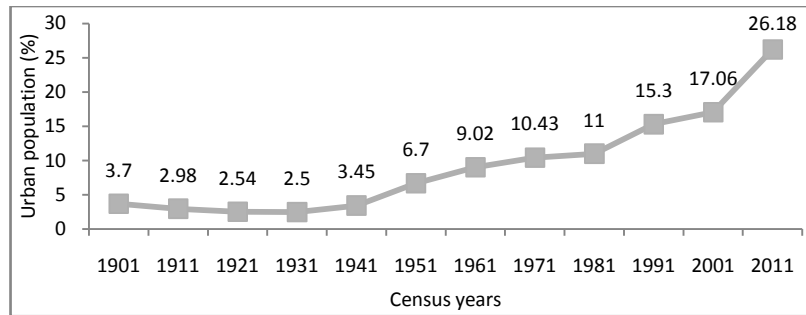


Fig. 1: Level of urbanisation in Tripura, 1901-2011; Data Source: www.tspcb.tripura.gov.in/people.htm; Compiled by the Author

Table-2: Statutory and Census towns in districts, Tripura, 2011

State/District	Statutory Towns	Census Towns	Total Towns
TRIPURA	16	26	42
West Tripura	6	15	21
North Tripura	3	4	7
Dhalai	2	2	4
South Tripura	5	5	10

Source: Census of India, 2011

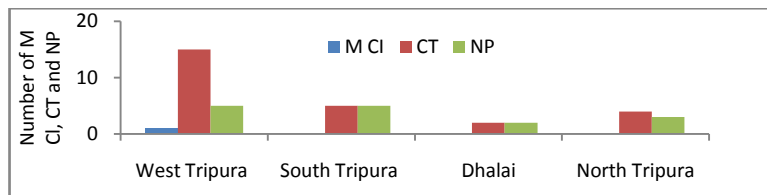


Fig. 2: District-wise different urban centres in Tripura, 2011; Source: Author [Note: M CI=Municipal Council, CT=Census Town, NP=Nagar Panchayat]

B. Analysis of Urbanisation Processes in Tripura

In the present study the process of urbanisation has been analysed on the basis of three selected urban indices—level of urbanisation, decadal growth of urban population and the rate of urbanisation [6]. In addition, the Eldridge index [7] is also used to investigate the pace of urbanisation [8 & 9].

(i) Level of urbanisation in Tripura, 2001-2011

It expresses the percentage of urban population with respect to the total population for a particular time. Thus, $Level\ of\ Urbanisation = [(Urban\ Population \div Total\ Population) \times 100]$.

All the districts have experienced increase in level of urbanisation during the period. West Tripura constitutes highest percentage 39.27 and Dhalai scored lowest percentage 10.71 in 2011 (see Fig. 3).

(ii) Decadal growth of urban population in Tripura, 2001-2011

Decadal growth of urban population indicates the degree of urbanisation with respect to time. Thus, $Decadal\ growth\ of\ urban\ population\ (2001-2011) = [(Urban\ Population\ (2011) - Urban\ Population\ (2001)) \div Urban\ Population\ (2001) \times 100]$. It shows that degree of urbanisation has been increased relatively in South Tripura and Dhalai districts during 2001-2011 (see Fig. 4).

(iii) Rate of urbanisation in Tripura, 2001-2011

It indicates decadal change in percentage of urban population. Thus, $Rate\ of\ Urbanisation\ (2001-2011) = [(Per\ cent\ of\ Urban\ Population\ in\ 2011 - Per\ cent\ of\ Urban\ Population\ in\ 2001) \div Per\ cent\ of\ Urban\ Population\ in\ 2001 \times 100]$.

100]. South Tripura again shows highest rate of 98.87 percentages whereas, West Tripura shows lowest rate of 46.8 percentages during the period (see Fig. 5).

(iv) Pace of urbanisation in Tripura, 2001-2011

As stated earlier, the Eldridge index is used to measure the pace of urbanisation. Thus, *Pace of Urbanisation*

$(2001-2011) = [(Per\ cent\ of\ Urban\ Population\ in\ 2011 - Per\ cent\ of\ Urban\ Population\ in\ 2001) \div 100 - Per\ cent\ of\ Urban\ Population\ in\ 2001 \times 100]$.

West Tripura shows highest pace of urbanisation and Dhalai shows lowest pace of urbanisation in the state (see Fig. 6).

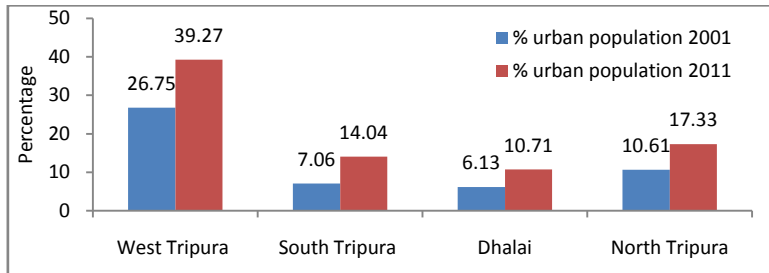


Fig. 3: District-wise levels of urbanisation in Tripura, 2011; Source: Author

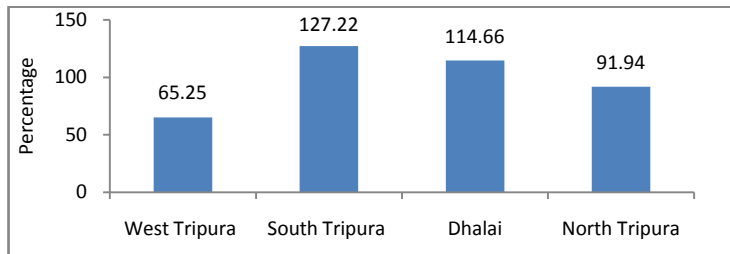


Fig.4: District-wise decadal growth of urban population, 2001-2011; Source: Author

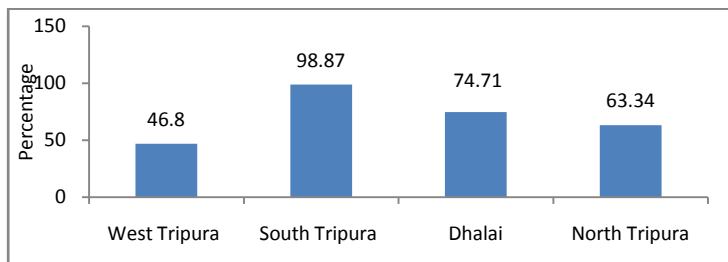


Fig.5: District-wise Rate of urbanisation, 2001-2011; Source: Author

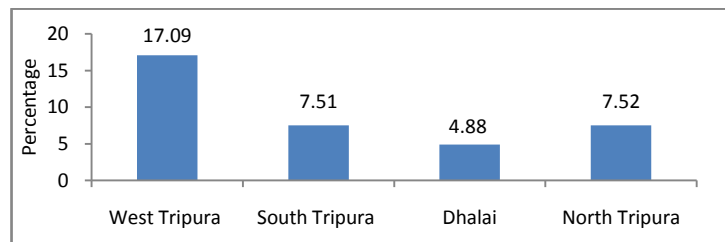


Fig. 6: District-wise pace of urbanisation, 2001-2011; Source: Author

C. Urbanisation and Urban economy

Apparently it seems that urbanisation has positive relationship with economic development. It has been found that most of the world's largest cities are in the world's largest

economies. But till, the relationship between urbanisation and level of economic development is complex [2]. Table-3 shows that majority of the urban population in state as well as in district levels are engaged in 'Other Workers' category.

People are mainly engaged in government/non-government jobs, business and/or service sector related activities in this category. West Tripura has highest percentage of urban

population and maximum percentage of other workers and enterprises in the state (Table-4).

Table-3: Percentage distribution of workers in urban areas, Tripura (2011)

State/ District (Urban)	Percentage of Cultivator Population	Percentage of Agricultural Labourers Population	Percentage of Household Industries Population	Percentage of Other Workers Population
TRIPURA	2.72	4.16	2.32	84.66
West Tripura	2.29	3.49	2.59	85.36
South Tripura	3.66	7.13	1.59	81.58
Dhalai	6.3	7.29	1.29	81.99
North Tripura	4.56	3.91	1.85	84.69

Source: Census of India; Computed by the author

Table-4: District-wise number of urban enterprises with selected principal characteristics based on Economic Census, 2005

District	Number of enterprises			
	Agriculture	Non-Agriculture	Agriculture & Non-Agriculture	Having 10 or more works
West Tripura	988	34939	35927	691
South Tripura	236	6821	7057	156
Dhalai	99	2205	2304	71
North Tripura	86	7072	7158	189
Total	1409	51037	52446	1107

Source: 5th Economic Census-2005 in Statistical Abstract of Tripura-2007

D. Extent of Urban Primacy and Unevenness in the State

The ‘law of the primate city’ refers to a situation in which a single city accommodates a disproportionately large number of a country’s population. The term ‘Primate City’ has been used first by M. Jefferson in 1939. He argued that, in the early stages of a country’s urban development, the city that emerges as larger than the rest develops an impetus to self-sustaining growth that enables it, over time, to attract economic and political functions to such an extent that it dominates the national urban system. The law of primacy is most relevant to countries that have a simple economy and spatial structure, a small area and population, low incomes, economic dependence upon agriculture and a colonial past [2].

‘Primacy Index’ can be calculated as, *Population of the largest city ÷ population of the second largest city* [10]. Table-5 shows that Agartala, evolved as the primate city (also the only Class-I Town/City) in Tripura as the state capital and district head quarter of West Tripura. No other urban centres have qualified the primacy status in other districts. It elaborates disparity in development in the state in general. Tripura is a multi-ethnic, multi-cultural state and is the only

state among other North-East states where demographic composition has been switched over from tribal majority to non-tribal one.

Migration from neighbouring states and countries are mainly responsible for this. Particularly, in 1971 and thereafter the state has received major influx of in-migration in its territory. According to census of India migration data, 2001, Tripura has gained inter-state immigrants mainly from neighbouring three states of Mizoram (28,292), Assam (17,827) and West Bengal (260, 844) whereas, international immigrants came from Bangladesh (260, 844), Pakistan (347, 188) and Nepal (309). [11].

Agartala as the state capital and only ‘city’ has captured all the developmental activities in the state. The only airport in the capital city connects Agartala with Guwahati and Kolkata. It is also connected by road to Dhaka (capital city of Bangladesh). Agartala-Dhaka route is expected to bring more economic opportunity in the state. The state has received one ‘Smart City’ project (central government assisted) and Agartala is officially notified as the future smart city of the state.

Table-5: Primacy index estimation in Tripura, 2011

State/District	Population of the Largest Town	Population of the 2nd Largest Town	Primacy Index
Tripura	400004 (Agartala)	40595 (Dharmanagar)	9.85
West Tripura	400004 (Agartala)	21085 (Bishalgarh)	18.97
South Tripura	32758 (Udaipur)	11921 (Santir Bazar)	2.75
Dhalai	16285 (Ambassa)	10872 (Kamalpur)	1.5
North Tripura	40595 (Dharmanagar)	22405 (Kailasahar)	1.81

Data Sources: District Census Handbooks of West Tripura, South Tripura, Dhalai, North Tripura, 2011; Computed by the author

IV. Conclusion

The present study on trend of urbanisation in Tripura has revealed many interesting facts. Though the recent urbanisation is below the national average, but it shows increasing trend during 1901-2011. West Tripura has been found to be the most urbanised district in the state. Interestingly, primacy condition exists at state level and Agartala has come out as the primate city. It elaborates the existence of disparity and unevenness in the state. Therefore, proper planning and more developmental activities in decentralised way are needed for the overall development of the state.

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